(b) As per National Crime Records Bureau information, the total counterfeited currency recovered and seized in the country is of the value of Rs. 7,51,57,998/- and Rs. 2,96,76,175/- during 2004 and 2005 (January-June) respectively.

(c) Recently new/additional security features have been introduced in the banknotes to curb counterfeiting.

Ministry of Home Affairs and Department of Revenue have been advised to issue instructions to the enforcement agencies, customs authorities/ borders security force/intelligence agencies/state police to exercise effective vigil in sensitive areas to detect and curb counterfeiting of currency notes. RBI has also initiated public awareness campaign against counterfeit/ fake currency.

Miscalculation of Income Tax assessees

644. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that only 87,608 individuals in 2004-05 have an assessed income exceeding Rs. 10 lakh a year;

(b) if so, the details of such assessees in each State/UT;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the said figure is under valued, given the spectacular growth in the services sector in recent years;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is a fact that the NCAER has estimated that there may be around 1.7 million households having an income of more than Rs. 10 lakh in 2005-06; and

(f) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) No, Sir. According to statistics maintained by Income Tax Department, the number of individuals with an assessed income/loss exceeding Rs. 10 lakh as on 31st March, 2005 was 91,877.

(b) State-wise details are not maintained. However, Region-wise details maintained for Chief Commissioners of Income Tax is enclosed as Statement *(See* below).

(c) These figures are actual data of the basis of assessed income. It is the constant endeavour of the Government to increase number of such individuals by way of scrutiny, survey, search, comprehensive computerization of the Income Tax Department and public awareness campaigns. Steps have already been initiated to increase number of such assesses during the current financial year.

(d) Does not arise in view of reply to part (c) above.

(e) The NCAER estimate of number of such households and individual assessees of the Income Tax Department are not comparable because household is different from individual assessees. Further, individual's taxable income is derived after allowing certain statutory exemptions and deductions from his gross income.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to part (e) above.

Statement

Region-wise number of individual assessees having income/loss of Rs. 10 lakhs and above as on 31st March, 2005.

SI. No.	Chief Commissioner's region	Number of individuals
1	2	3
1	North West, Chandigarh	3461
2	Delhi	17492
3	Jaipur	1317
4	Ahmedabad	3153
5	Mumbai	20380
6	Pune	6000
7	Nagpur	617
8	Bangalore	10979
9	Cochin	1926
10	Chennai	7238
11	Hyderabad	8661

1	2	3
12	Bhubaneshwar	367
13	Kolkata	5398
14	Bhopal	1569
15	Lucknow	486
16	Kanpur	1595
17	Patna	512
18	Guwahati	726
	TOTAL	91877

Rise in Prices of Essential Commodities

645. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the soaring prices of essential commodities in the market;

(b) if so, the extent to which the prices of essential commodities have gone up during the last one year;

(c) the reasons for increase in the price of essential commodities in the market; and

(d) the measures taken to check the rising trend in prices of essential commodities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) 30 essential commodities having weight of 17.63 per cent in the WPI registered an annual inflation rate of 4.4 per cent as on 12th November, 2005 compared to 5.0 per cent recorded a year ago. The details of item-wise inflation rates as on 12th November, 2005 and the corresponding date last year are given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(c) As on the 12th November 2005,10 items namely arhar, tea, rape & mustard oil, groundnut oil, vanaspati, chillies, coconut oil, kerosene,